

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4186

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UNCLAS TEHRAN 10770

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: BEXP

SUBJECT: NIRTV ARCHITECTURAL CONTRACTS

REF: STATE 256780

1. U.S. CITIZEN ARCHITECT(HAROLD BIRNBAUM) EMPLOYED BY LARGE IRANIAN ENGINEERING FIRM, AZIZ FARMANFARMAIAN, STATES THAT SEVERAL MONTHS AGO HIS FIRM WAS GIVEN THE CONTRACT FOR DESIGN OF NIRTV HEADQUARTERS. WE ALSO HAVE CONFIRMATION OF THIS FROM NIRTV.

2. DURING THE CALL ON REZA GHOTBI, DIRECTOR OF NIRTV, ON NOVEMBER 4 BY EXIM OFFICIALS, ECONOMIC COUNSELOR ASKED WHAT ARCHITECTURAL WORK FOR NIRTV MIGHT BE UP FOR DECISION FOR WHICH U.S. QUALIFIED FIRMS MIGHT COMPETE. CONFIRMING THAT FARMANFARMAIAN IS DOING THE ARCHITECTURAL WORK FOR THE HEAD-QUARTER'S BUILDING(ABOUT 35,000 SP.FT.) GHOTBI SAID THAT PRE-PLANNING IS NOW UNDER WAY FOR A LARGE NIRTV PRODUCTION FACILITY. UPON COMPLETION OF THIS PHASE OF THE WORK, TEN OF THE LARGEST FOREIGN ARCHITECT FIRMS WOULD BE INVITED TO JOINT VENTURE WITH TEN IRANIAN FIRMS FOR THE SUBMISSION OF ARCHITECTURAL PROPOSALS FOR THIS FACILITY. THIS INVITATION WOULD BE EXTENDED IN DECEMBER 1976 OR JANUARY 1977. ARTHUR D. LITTLE, INC. OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS IS NIRTV'S CONSULTANT BUT GHOTBI MADE IT CLEAR THAT NIRTV ALONE WOULD DECIDE WHICH TEN FOREIGN FIRMS WOULD BE INVITED. HE IN-

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DICATED THAT SOME THREE OR FOUR U.S. FIRMS WOULD ALMOST

CERTAINLY BE ON THE LIST, SOME TWO OR THREE FRENCH FIRMS, ETC. EVENTUALLY ON FOREIGN AND ONE IRANIAN FIRM WOULD BE SELECTED FOR THE WORK. ABOUT \$200,000,000 WORTH OF EQUIPMENT WOULD ALSO BE PROCURED THROUGH INTERNATIONAL TENDER. HE ALSO STATED THAT THERE IS NO REPEAT NO ARCHITECTURAL CONTRACT NOW UNDER CONSIDERATION BY NIRTU WHICH HAS NARROWED DOWN TO A U.S. CONSORTIUM AND A FRENCH CONSORTIUM.

3. WE ASSUME THAT THE CONTEMPLATED PRODUCTION FACILITY MAY BE THE JOB TO WHICH TYLER ABELL REFERS. HOWEVER, IF DEPARTMENT WILL GIVE US NAME OF THE LOCAL ENGINEER WITH WHOM MR.ARBELL'S CONSORTIUM IS IN CONTACT, WE WILL CHECK FURTHER.

4. THERE IS NO OBJECTION TO COMMERCE'S DISSEMINATING TO QUALIFIED U.S. ARCHITECTS THE ABOVE INFORMATION ON THE PRODUCTION FACILITY. FIRMS MAY WISH TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH ARTHUR D. LITTLE, INC.
HELMS

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